

Appl. No 10/714,709  
Amendment C  
Reply to Final Office Action mailed Aug. 9, 2005

**REMARKS**

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's Final Office Action mailed August 9, 2005. Responsive thereto, claims 1-14 and 18-30 have been canceled hereby. New claims 31-41 have been added. As explained below, the pending claims are not anticipated by Wilson et al. the basis of the outstanding rejections.

An apparatus that embodies the present invention determines if another system or device (which has an expected or normal operational characteristic) is functioning in an acceptable fashion. If so, the apparatus emits a first signal. For example, total current draw from an electrical distribution system can be monitored. If the current draw is within acceptable limits the apparatus can emit a first signal corresponding to expected operation. If the current draw exceeds a predetermined value, indicative of a short circuit, for example, the apparatus will emit a different signal that indicates an abnormality. The first signal could be a pulse train. The different signal could be an absence of the pulse train.

Wilson et al., unlike the claimed structures merely monitors and reports on the outputs of various sensors or combinations of sensors. Wilson et al. does not address failure detection. The system of Wilson et al. does not know if any aspect thereof has ceased to operate as expected.

For at least the above reasons Wilson et al. does not anticipate the pending claims. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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